

Construction Career Pathway

MISSOURI ECONOMIC RESEARCH & INFORMATION CENTER
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
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What are Career Pathways?

Career Pathways are groups of occupations within a career field. Occupations within a pathway share common skills, knowledge, and interests. The pathways use industry-recognized credentials and are examples of how different levels of training or education can help provide opportunities for career advancement.

Missouri Numbers:

-  **17,161 Employers**
-  **143,528 Workers**
-  **\$74,631 Average Wage**

Why Have a Career in Construction?

The Construction industry represents 5.7 percent of total private sector employment in Missouri, employing over 143,500 workers in more than 17,100 businesses in 2023. Average annual wages in this industry are \$74,631, higher than the state average of \$62,563 for private industries.

Missouri generally has lower industry concentration in Construction as compared to the United States. Employment in this industry has been steadily growing, increasing 3.4 percent per year from 2018 to 2023.

Along with formal training in community colleges and technical schools, many construction occupations, such as Carpenters, Bricklayers, and Cement Masons can be mastered through paid apprenticeships. From Laborers to Engineers, there are various careers in the Construction fields of Skilled Trades, Engineering, and Quality Control.

Know the Basics

Construction depends heavily on delivering solidly built structures on a deadline, so the ability to plan, schedule, and follow directions while working on a team is important. Safety and quality control are also critical in this industry. Soft skills, such as interpersonal skills, professionalism, and dependability, are important in all industries and occupations, including Construction.

Skills needed for Success:

Construction has industry-wide technical competencies that represent the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in this industry. Some of the skills that may be needed for success in Construction are craftsmanship, both building and construction design, building, and installation, as well as business fundamental skills such as contracts, budgeting, and cost estimating.

Who's Hiring in Missouri?

J.E. Dunn Construction
Johnson Controls
Northpoint Development
Sunrun
Emery Sapp & Sons



Skilled Trades

Now

Short-Term On-the-Job Training

Construction Laborers
Entry: \$38,350 Average: \$53,920

Engineering & Quality Control

See Next and Later categories for job opportunities in Engineering & Quality Control

Next

Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long-Term On-the-Job Training

Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters
Entry: \$46,680 Average: \$69,730

Carpenters
Entry: \$46,110 Average: \$62,810

Electricians
Entry: \$47,810 Average: \$67,850

HVAC Mechanics & Installers
Entry: \$46,470 Average: \$62,530

Electrical & Electronics Drafters
Entry: \$59,150 Average: \$75,890

Architectural & Civil Drafters
Entry: \$48,580 Average: \$62,910

Mechanical Drafters
Entry: \$50,780 Average: \$66,020

Certificates: Plumbing, Carpentry, Electrician, HVAC Engineering Technology/Technician

Degrees: Engineering
Certificates: CAD Certification

Later

Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

Construction Managers
Entry: \$84,360 Average: \$115,350

Cost Estimators
Entry: \$54,200 Average: \$76,730

Electrical Engineers
Entry: \$79,510 Average: \$103,690

Civil Engineers
Entry: \$74,940 Average: \$93,110

Degrees: Construction Management, Business Administration and Management

Degrees: Engineering

Sources:

Lightcast™
Employment and Training Administration, Competency Model Clearinghouse
2023 Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Top employers data is based on 2024 online job ads

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